

Editing

JOUR 360-81

Tuesdays 6-8:40 p.m.

Elmwood campus

Instructor: Nick Marinello, senior editor, Office of University Publications.

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The course

Editing involves making critical judgments about published material. At least that's what it means in this class. We will explore the many different kinds of decisions that editors must make: What makes a good story? How should a story be reported? What is the tone of the story? How can the story be illustrated? Who needs to be interviewed? How can the copy be made more readable, shorter, more objective? How do we move a print story to the web or vice versa?

Goals

- To think more critically about news
- To understand that precise use of language matters
- To understand that grammar matters
- To get a sense of what is news and why

What we'll be doing

Journalism is essentially about telling stories about the world. We will spend most of our time thinking and talking about the myriad details involved in telling those stories well. Every story is a result of hundreds of decisions made by writers, editors and designers. We will also work on projects in which you will practice what I preach.

Texts

- *Contemporary Editing*, Cecilia Friend, Don Challenger, Katherine C. McAdams
- *Associated Press Stylebook and Manual*
- *Times-Picayune*, bring Tuesday's issue to every class.

Schedule

Sept. 4	Introduction. What is editing, anyway? Read Chaps. 1, 2 for next class.
Sept. 11	News judgment. What is news? Read Chap. 3 and 4 for next class
Sept. 18	Thinking like a pro or why you will no longer write a student. Read Chap 5 for next class.
Sept. 25	What is good writing and how to know it when we see it. Read Chap 6 for next class.
Oct. 2	The art of headlines and cutlines. Often readers don't read nuthin' but them. Read Chap. 7 for next class.
Oct. 9	Local news and making national and international news local. Prepare for test and read Chap. 9 for Oct. 23 class.
Oct. 16	TEST

- Oct. 23 Cutting copy for clarity, or it's always easier cutting the other guy's story. Read Chap. 10 for next class.
- Oct. 30 Feature editing, assigning features, guiding writers. Read Chap. 12 for next class.
- Nov. 6 Ethical and legal issues and what's the difference, anyway? Read Chap. 13 for next class.
- Nov. 13 Photographs, the power of images, photo editing. Read Chaps. 15 and 16 for next class.
- Nov. 20 Why design? New media and journalism on the Web. Prepare for test and final project.
- Nov. 27 TEST
- Dec. 4 FINAL PROJECT DUE. All the stuff we didn't cover and can fit into the time we have.

GRADING

- Participation 20% (Attendance counts, and I will take roll.)
- Editing assignments 40% (There will be about 10 of them)
- Tests 20% (10 % each)
- Final project 20%

CONDUCT

My aim is to have an environment where we can talk freely and critically about media, current events, each other's work, good movies, whatever.... It's important that you show up for class and be willing to participate and contribute to what's going on. You will be treated with respect and it's expected that you will treat others with respect. (If you think that last sentence may need some editing you are already on the right track...) All work that's turned in must be your own; if I find out otherwise I will fail you for the course. I will be available during class breaks and after class to talk; otherwise you can make an appointment to see me at my office.